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105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 183

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and publish annually a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and publish annually a consumer guide to prescription drug prices.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Prescription Drug
5 Consumer Information Act of 1997".

1 **SEC. 2. PREPARATION OF CONSUMER GUIDE.**

2 The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this
3 Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall prepare and pub-
4 lish in accordance with this Act a consumer guide to pre-
5 scription drug prices (in this Act referred to as the
6 "consumer guide").

7 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN CONSUMER**
8 **GUIDE.**

9 The consumer guide shall contain—

10 (1) a list of the prices of all prescription drugs
11 in an easy-to-understand format organized by thera-
12 peutic category; and

13 (2) such other related information as the Sec-
14 retary determines will assist—

15 (A) consumers in reducing expenses for
16 prescription drugs; and

17 (B) health care providers in determining
18 the cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs as
19 compared to other prescription drugs and to
20 other therapies.

21 **SEC. 4. PUBLICATION.**

22 The Secretary shall publish the first consumer guide
23 within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act
24 and shall publish an updated version of the consumer
25 guide annually thereafter. In addition, the Secretary may
26 publish periodically bulletins which describe changes in the

1 prices of prescription drugs between the dates of the an-
2 nual publication of the consumer guide.

3 **SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GUIDE.**

4 The Secretary shall—

5 (1) provide the consumer guide to public librar-
6 ies;

7 (2) provide for the dissemination of the
8 consumer guide widely to consumers of prescription
9 drugs and health care providers;

10 (3) encourage organizations representing senior
11 citizens, health care consumers, and health care pro-
12 fessionals to make the consumer guide available to
13 the members of those organizations; and

14 (4) make the consumer guide available through
15 a computer network which is easily accessible to the
16 general public, as well as in print.

17 **SEC. 6. FEES FOR CONSUMER GUIDE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
19 (b), the Secretary shall charge a reasonable fee for provid-
20 ing the consumer guide which may not exceed an amount
21 reasonably related to the costs of publishing and distribut-
22 ing the consumer guide.

23 (b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not charge a
24 fee for providing the consumer guide to public libraries.



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1 (c) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees collected in exchange
2 for providing the consumer guide shall be available to the
3 Secretary to cover the costs of publishing and distributing
4 the consumer guide.

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